GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2001
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2003
AGRICULTURE EXPORT AND DOMESTIC SUBSIDIES
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the developing countries led by India and Brazil have sought special and differential treatment for phasing out agriculture subsidies in the Mini-Ministerial Summit of WTO held at Egypt; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): In the on-going negotiations on the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreementon Agriculture India has sought, inter-alia substantial reduction in all forms of trade distorting domestic support by the developed countries and elimination of export subsidies except export subsidies provided by all developing countries to reduce their high cost of marketing, including handling, upgrading and other processing costs and cost of transport and freight permitted under the existing provisions of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture which would remain without reduction commitments. Brazil as a member of the Cairns Group (a group of major agricultureproducts` exporting developed and developing countries) has also sought substantial reduction in domestic support and export subsidies.

The negotiations are scheduled to be concluded by 1st January, 2005.